Subsidy to nitrogenous fertilizers

319. 3HRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allow subsidy for the nitrogenous fertilizers and the policy, if any, maintained by Government thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government decontrol the production of Ammonium Sulphate to the disadvantage of FACT, while controlling the price of urea;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether Government would consider to include the Ammonium Sulphate produced by the FACT under subsidy scheme to compensate the loss sustained by the company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) At present, only urea amongst the nitrogenous fertilizers is under statutory price and partial distribution and movement control and is eligible for subsidy/concession. Ammonium Sulphate along with other low analysis fertilizers *viz.* Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) and Ammonium Chloride (AC) remained under statutory price control and outside it on different occasions. These fertilizers were decontrolled on 25.7.1991. On the basis of recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, these fertilizers were again brought under Retention Price Scheme (RPS) *w.e.f.* 25.8.1992. However, these fertilizers were again decontrolled *w.e.f.* 10.6.1994. There is no proposal under consideration at present to bring these fertilizers under control or under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled fertilizers.

SKY rocketing of Drug Prices

320. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite assurances that prices of drugs would not increase pursuant to implementation of the Patent Law, prices of several drugs and medicines in the country have been sky-rocketing;